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I, LEANNE MYNOTT, MANAGER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2003900586 for a patent by PHARMASEA INTERNATIONAL PTY. LIMITED as filed on 11 February 2003.

I further certify that the above application is now proceeding in the name of ARGUS SOLUTIONS PTY LTD pursuant to the provisions of Section 37 of the Patents Act 1990.

WITNESS my hand this
Twenty-third day of February 2004

LEANNE MYNOTT
MANAGER EXAMINATION SUPPORT
AND SALES



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AUSTRALIA

Patents Act 1990

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

APPLICANT: PHARMASEA INTERNATIONAL PTY. LIMITED
NUMBER:
FILING DATE:

Invention Title: DELIVERY OF METERED DOSES

The invention is described in the following statement:-

DELIVERY OF METERED DOSES

This invention relates to a system for delivering metered doses and in particular can be a system whereby a specific dose of a medication can be supplied to a recipient.

5 There are some forms of medication, such as for example methadone, the delivery of which is strictly controlled and the onus on the dispenser is to ensure that the product is only supplied to persons who are entitled to receive it, is only delivered in the dose that is prescribed and can only be delivered at pre-determined intervals. Also the scheduling of dose changes, prescription expiry and patient management issues.

10 For many pharmacists, the delivery of methadone therapy to drug addicts is a time consuming and very stressful part of their business because of the tight constraints which are placed upon them and the possible adverse results to the recipient if the wrong drug wrong quantity or wrong interval of the drug is delivered.

Also many various States place strict controls on the delivery of such products and the onus is on the pharmacist to ensure that there is no misuse of the substance.

15 It is an object of the present invention to provide a system whereby such products can be dispensed in metered doses only to the person to whom the product can be dispensed and only in amounts which are strictly prescribed.

20 The invention includes, in its broadest sense, a system for delivering metered doses including means for identifying the recipient, database means whereby particulars of the recipient are recovered on identification and means whereby a metered dose is delivered for use by the recipient.

The means to identify the recipient may preferably be means to identify the recipient by way of their iris pattern but could be Biometric means such as fingerprint, voice recognition, DNA or the like as well as onscreen digital identification photographs.

5 It may also be preferred that the system of identifying the recipient is iris recognition which includes a means whereby a digital representation of the iris is encoded (known as the IrisCode™) which can be compared with a stored IrisCode™ to ascertain that the recipient is the correct recipient and which, in turn, enables the database to be activated.

10 It is also preferred that the system provides scanning means whereby a handwritten prescription or the like can be loaded into the database, printer means whereby labels or the like can automatically be generated from the database.

It may be preferred that the method of delivering the dose be a peristaltic pump the operation of which is controlled by a dose maintaining the database. The system also caters for solid dose forms such as tablets and capsules requiring daily dose control.

15 In use, using the preferred aspect of the invention, the client presents to the dispenser and places his/her eye in a position where the iris can be scanned. The scan of the iris is converted into an IrisCode™ and this code is then compared to codes in the database and, provided the same code is therefound, the client's details can be placed on the screen for examination by the dispenser.

20 These details can include a photograph, particulars of the history; what dosage is available to the person and when the dose can be administered.

Assuming there is an indication that the client is in fact the person he/she claimed to be and that there is a dose available at the time, the dispenser can institute a delivery function in which the required dosage of methadone (when used for the treatment of heroine addiction) is delivered to a disposable cup and this is handed to the client.

The client's records are automatically updated to indicate that the dose has been dispensed and, say, to update the earliest time at which the next dose can be dispensed and any other information required.

5 When the client again presents and has his/her iris scanned, then the same comparison check is done and if a dose can be delivered it will be delivered.

The database can also be set up to provide provision of forward doses to be handed to the client, say for weekends, it can have scanned into it the prescription issued by the doctor for the medication so this can readily be checked by the dispenser.

10 There may be means which are accessible normally only under the provision of a password whereby the permitted delivery of medication can be varied, possibly by the reduction of the dose size after a particular period of administration or the change in the frequency of dose and this information will then become readily available to that particular dispenser and to any other dispensers or medical personnel who have access to the databases.

15 The system is also adapted to maintain macro records for supply, say, to a Government Health Department which relate to the number of doses issued and thus the amount of medication remaining so that an audit of the use can be maintained.

All these and other modifications can readily be made in the system of the invention.

DATED this 11 day of February, 2003

PHARMASEA INTERNATIONAL PTY. LIMITED

By Its Patent Attorneys

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